

IV. REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim Status

Claims 1-29 are pending with claims 25-29 being withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1, 4, 9, 11, 12, 15, 16, and 19 have been amended. Claims 6, 7, 10, 13, 14, 17, and 18 have been canceled. Claim 30 has been added. Upon entry of the amendment, claims 1-5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15, 16, and 19-30 will be pending with claims 25-29 being withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 1-24 stand rejected. Claim 7 stands objected to. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 9-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,083,047 to Paagman, hereinafter "Paagman." Claims 1, 4, 5, and 13-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,461,202 to Kline, hereinafter "Kline." Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Paagman in view of the American Heritage Dictionary. Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Paagman.

Applicant respectfully traverses the grounds for rejection and requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15, 16, and 19-24 in view of the following.

Claim Objection

Claim 7 stands objected to. Claim 7 has been canceled, thereby obviating its rejection.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 103

Independent claims 1, 16, and 20, as amended, includes features that are neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited references, either taken alone or in combination, namely as represented by claim 1:

1. (Currently Amended) An electrical connector comprising:
a substantially planar dielectric;

a substantially planar ground plane disposed on one planar surface of the dielectric;
and

a plurality of differential pair signal conductors disposed on the opposing planar surface of the dielectric, each signal conductor is located in a first plane substantially parallel to the ground plane and each differential pair of signal conductors comprises a corresponding pair of signal contact pins, *each pair of signal contact pins located in a plane substantially orthogonal to the ground plane.* (emphasis added)

Paagman does not disclose or suggest an electrical connector having each pair of signal contact pins located in a plane substantially *orthogonal* to the ground plane, as recited by the claims. In contrast, Paagman discloses all signal contact pins 34 being located in a plane substantially *parallel* with the ground plane 36 (Fig. 2).

Kline does not disclose or suggest an electrical connector having each pair of signal contact pins located in a plane substantially *orthogonal* to the ground plane, as recited by the claims. In contrast, Kline discloses pairs of signal contact pins 96 being located in a plane substantially *parallel* with the ground shield 84 (Fig. 5).

Accordingly, applicant submits that the cited references, either alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the features of independent claims 1, 16, or 20. Additionally, inasmuch as dependent claims 2-5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15, 19, and 21-24 (which have also been rejected) are dependent on claim 1, 16, or 20, these claims are patentable over the cited references, at least by virtue of their dependency. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal the rejections of claims 1-5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15, 16, and 19-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 103.

New Claim

Claim 30 has been added to further define the invention. Support can be found in the claims as originally filed at application claim 19.

Conclusion

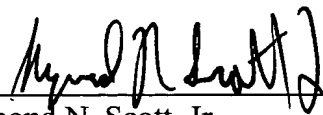
For the foregoing reasons, applicant respectfully submits that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the office action and an early notice of allowance are respectfully requested. In the event that the examiner cannot allow the present

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application for any reason, the examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney,
Raymond N. Scott Jr. at (215) 564-8951, to discuss resolution of any remaining issues.

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